second and early third quarter of 2008 banks faced acute liquidity crunch, as a result of which the industries had some difficulty in securing loans. However, since the beginning of 2009, the situation has eased off and banks now have better liquidity position. Banks have now increased their credit portfolios considerable since then.

(c) In October 2008, RBI advised the banks to review all cases where banks have been averse to disbursing working capital limits and term loans (including short-term loans) against the sanctioned limits where drawing power is available and permit drawal of sanctioned limits, guided by their usual commercial judgment.

Fake currency notes in ATMs

1854. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the consumers are often facing trouble when they withdraw money from Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) of various Banks which provided fake currency notes to them; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect such innocent people and to protect the interests of depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that few instances of counterfeit currency being dispensed through ATMs has come to their notice.

To protect customers and depositors interest, various steps have been taken by Government/RBI, which include, issue of directions/guidelines to banks as follows.

(i) To disburse only sorted and genuine notes over their counters and through ATMs.

(ii) Note Sorting Machines to be installed at all the currency chest maintaining branches and 210 non chest branches to enable banks to detect counterfeit notes at the entry level.

(iii) To establish Forged Note Verification Cells at the Head Offices of the Banks to take effective steps to deal with counterfeiting.

(iv) To impound the counterfeit notes and lodge FIR with Police Authorities.

Further, the Reserve Bank of India has also been conducting training programs for employees/officers of banks and other organizations handling large amount of cash. RBI has also been popularizing the security features of the bank notes through its website, posters displayed at branches of the bank etc. A film depicting the security features of a genuine note has also been released in theatres besides being exhibited by Regional Offices of RBI at various exhibitions, bus stations/railway stations etc.